

## THE PURPOSES FOR THE GATHERING OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

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Jesus said, "*He that is not with Me is against Me, and he that gathers not with Me scatters abroad.*" *Matthew 12:30.*

Jesus said, "*For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.*" *Matthew 18:20.*

*Verily I say unto you, whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*" *Matthew 18:18.*

*Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.*" *Matthew 18:19.*

There are 8 purposes for our gathering together in oneness.

1. To be **the Body of Christ.** *Ephesians 1:22,23.* The Body is the agent through which the will of the Head is fulfilled.
2. To be **the Bride of Christ.** *Ephesians 5:25-32, Song of Solomon 2:8-17.* The Bride is the Companion of Christ and is by His side at all times.
3. To be **the Army of God.** *Ephesians 6:10-12, Song of Solomon 6:9,10.* The Army fights the battles of the Lord and overcomes the enemy.
4. To be **the House of God.** *Ephesians 2:22, 1Timothy 3:15.* This is where God dwells and it is His House of Prayer. *Matthew 21:13.*
5. To be **the Temple of God.** *Ephesians 2:21.* This is where God is worshipped. *John 4:23,24.*
6. To be **the Workmanship of God.** *Ephesians 2:10.* We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works of witnessing, caring for the poor and needy, discipling new believers to maturity.
7. To be **the Family of God.** *Ephesians 2:18,19, Luke 11:2.* As the Family of God we fellowship together at the foot of the Cross, with the Bread and the Wine.
8. To be **the Assembly or Church of God.** *Ephesians 1:22, Matthew 16:18,19.* The Assembly or Church of God is the "ekklesia", or ruling body that makes decisions governing the realm of their jurisdiction. *Acts 19:32,39,41.* The "ekklesia" of Ephesus was the assembly that made decisions governing the life of this City State.

**Oneness in the Body of Christ is necessary for the above 8 functions to operate.**

**Oneness in the Body of Christ is based upon our obedience to the commands of Jesus:**

To **forgive** one another. *Mark 11:25,26.* Remember that *Luke 17:3* may apply. Be Spirit led.

To **release one another from condemning judgment.** *Matthew 7:1,2.* Refuse bitterness.

To **pray blessing** on one another. *Luke 6:27,28.* You can pray, *Colossians 1:9-11, Ephesians 1:16-19.*

To **apologise** when necessary. *Matthew 5:23,24.* By the leading of the Holy Spirit and out of a secure identity in Christ.

To **do good** to one another. *Galatians 5:13,14.* By the leading of the Holy Spirit and out of a secure identity in Christ.

To **sort out issues in a godly way.** *Matthew 18:15.* By the leading of the Holy Spirit, out of a secure identity in Christ, and by the fruit of the Spirit. *Galatians 5:22,23.*